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blow hot and cold

Forty arrests during riotous celebrations – 1934

CAMBRIDGE saw one of the most riotous celebrations of the 'Fifth' for many years.

In the course of demonstrations around Market Hill, nearly 40 arrests were made, many of the police lost their helmets, several more had their tunics ripped right down the back and not a few sustained split knuckles and bruises.

When supplies of fireworks began to run low, parties of undergraduates attempted to put out every light but carried their efforts too far and smashed the glass of two shop windows and the traffic signal at the top of Petty Cury.

There were 35 defendants, including seven for assaults on the police, three for resisting the police, and a number for obstructing the police.

Other summonses were for extinguishing street lamps and throwing fireworks.

A Trinity undergraduate was fined for 'tipping' a policeman's helmet.

Several times during the hearing there were outbursts of laughter.

To the Dean of Trinity (near St John's) – 1931

THE atmosphere of Cambridge reference library was more reminiscent of a cinema during the showing of a hilarious comedy than a lecture room when the Rev H K Cossar told the cream of a world-wide collection of jokes about the church, university life and Irishmen.

There is a great rivalry between John's and Trinity so, when one dean sent a letter addressed to "The Dean of Trinity, near St John's College", the reply was addressed: "The Dean of Trinity, near Matthew's Café."

Freezing weather stops mischief flaring up – 1930

CAMBRIDGE police had cold feet with waiting for something to turn up in a temperature several degrees under freezing point.

But the dreaded 'Fifth' – that traditional battle between university and police – failed to explode in the time-honoured fashion.

There was a constant bombardment on the outskirts of town and some spasmodic firework throwing on the market where smoke screens were used to some effect.

Using the cloud as cover, two lamps were extinguished under the very nose of a sergeant. There were a few arrests but no helmets were knocked off.

Roaring furnace engulfs 600-year-old house – 1930

LITTLE Thetford was the scene of a big blaze, a large six-roomed thatched house built in 1300 being totally destroyed.

After the old roof dropped, the four main walls were a roaring furnace and the blazing embers carried long distances.

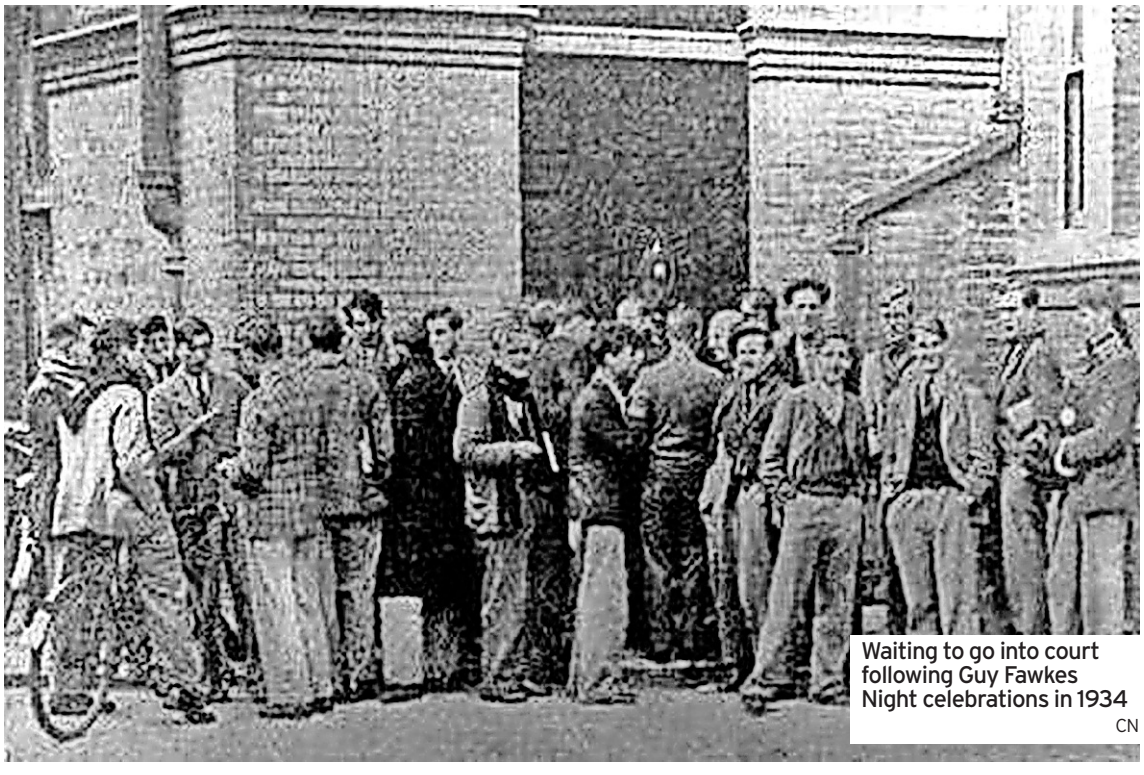
Soon, nothing was left but burning beams and scorched walls which had evidently been built of the old Fen mud.

But for the efforts of villagers, similar large thatched houses nearby would have been involved.

The Three Horseshoes public house opposite was plied with ladders and a chain of buckets formed and water thrown on the thatched roof to stop a possible outbreak here.

The cause is a mystery. Fireworks were being let off, but not at this end of the village.

The Three Horseshoes at Little Thetford
MIKE PETTY COLLECTION



Waiting to go into court following Guy Fawkes Night celebrations in 1934
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